



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Lassen
National
Forest

Hat Creek Ranger District
P.O. Box 220
Fall River Mills, CA 96028
(530) 336-5521 Voice/TDD
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File Code: 1950

Date:

Dear Interested Party,

The Hat Creek Ranger District of the Lassen National Forest is initiating National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) scoping for the Big Spring Curve Geological Investigation Project. Enclosed is a copy of the Proposed Action, Purpose and Need, Decision to be Made, and a Project map.

The purpose of this project is to issue a permit to The California Department of Transportation to drill four exploratory boreholes to sample the physical properties of the interior of a bluff above the Big Spring Curve on CA Highway 44 / 89, southwest of Old Station, CA. The borehole data are needed to complete the design for the re-engineering of the adjacent section of the highway. Since the boreholes would be relatively close to Hat Creek and Big Spring, protective measures have been built into the project design.

I request your input as it relates to the proposed action and identification of any issues about the anticipated effects from this proposed action. I also request that you respond in writing before June 25, 2014 so your comments may be considered as we move through the NEPA process with this project.

The Hat Creek District has made a preliminary assessment that this proposal falls within Category 8 (36 CFR 220.6(e)(8)) which would exclude it from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.15, Chapter 30).

Categorically excluded projects are no longer subject to legal notice and appeal procedures pursuant to Section 434 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 and Section 8006(a)&(b) of the Agricultural Act (Farm Bill) of 2014.

Comments, written or oral, may be submitted to: Kit Mullen, District Ranger, Hat Creek Ranger District, PO Box 220, Fall River Mills, CA 96028, (530) 336-5521, FAX: (530) 336-3337, during normal business hours. Hat Creek Ranger District business hours are from 8 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

Electronic comments, in acceptable plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf), or Word (.doc) formats, may be submitted to: comments-pacificsouthwest-lassen-hat-creek@fs.fed.us using Subject: Big Spring Curve Geological Investigation.



A decision regarding this proposal is expected in July, 2014. Thank you for your interest and participation in the environmental analysis process. For more information on the project, please contact Shawn Wheelock, District Hydrologist, by phone at (530) 336-3340.

Sincerely,

KIT T. MULLEN
District Ranger